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N. B. KLAINE, Editor and Publisher.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 19, 1895.

MORTON, the county in the southwest corner of Kansas, is raising blue stem grass seven feet high this year.

HICKS says "we believe that colder weather than in September for some years will fall in the last half of the month, and that an early winter will follow."

If the fool killer wants to kill two birds with one stone the Hays City Sentinel remarks that all he has to do is to hunt up two men arguing the silver question.

A farmer wrote to a Kansas paper, edited by a young man fresh from the east, asking how to sow alfalfa. The editor replied that he thought it would only be necessary to turn her loose in the field.

J. C. STRANG, formerly one of the Kansas supreme court commissioners, is soon to marry a wealthy widow of Guthrie, Oklahoma. Judge Strang's second wife has been dead about two years.—Larned Eagle-Optic.

SOME of the wheat in this county is so stacked as to be unsafe to use as seed. The trouble has been that most of the wheat was very weedy and consequently the stacks were built small. The rains came on and kept the stacks damp and some damage has been the result.—Great Bend Register.

David Kingler, of Elkhart, Ind., recently purchased the west half of sec. 26, twp. 27, range 33, in Ivanhoe township, and expresses himself as well pleased with his purchase. He says there are several families on their way to this part of the country, and about fifty families who are waiting to hear his report in regard to this county, and will undoubtedly locate in this county.—Santa Fe Monitor.

The Topeka Journal announces the probable statement that "Ingalls took a drink of cold water out of a pump in North Topeka," a favorite drinking place of his. We are glad to learn that Ingalls drinks cold water. It will probably lessen his extenuation, and enlarge his abdomen, as water has fattening qualities. We wonder which eye Ingalls winked when he said "that it is a good enough drink for anybody."

GEORGE R. BUCKMAN, secretary of the Board of Trade of Colorado Springs, says that the great plains country is subject to wet and dry cycles of ten years duration. Prof. Snow, of the Kansas State University, says the wet and dry cycles are of several years duration. Both agree that there is a cycle. But this is largely theorizing. In '92 there were good crops upon the plains, also in '89, and now we have good crops in '95, that would indicate a cycle of three years.—Irrigation Farmer.

THE REVIVAL OF PROSPERITY.

On every hand is heard and seen evidences of the gathering flood of prosperity, which is sure to sweep over the West and the whole country, in the immediate future. Confidence has already started an activity of preparation which is but a harbinger of the vast industrial revival which is to come. Railroads report a substantial increase in their earnings. The lumber traffic is enlarging. The zinc industries in Southwest Missouri and Southeast Kansas are reviving. The price of spelter has increased so as to cause a resumption of work in zinc mines that have lain dormant for some time.

The railroads are repairing their equipment and purchasing new cars and engines, the Missouri Pacific alone having just bought ten new locomotives and 15,000 tons of steel rails. The carriers on the great lakes are making preparations for unprecedented business and find themselves already fully engaged by the movement of crops and the increase of business resulting from the boom in the iron and coke industries.

Iron and steel mills that have been idle for one or two years are now starting up; glass factories are again in operation, and the "great hum" of industry that rolls around the world is just now gratefully audible in America, a promise of the mighty roar yet to come. The period of anxious hope and waiting is passed; the crop is made; the harvest waits, and the voice of prosperity may be heard bidding the people to be of good cheer and to prepare for the feast of good things which awaits them.—K. C. Star.

SCRAPS OF EARLY HISTORY.

BY THE EDITOR.

Every national event develops a character peculiar to the time and the conditions. After the revolutionary war the code duello was fashionable, and "affairs of honor" were settled by a resort to arms. The war developed the chivalric as well as the patriotic spirit. Offended honor was appeased on the field and often principals and seconds fell mortally. The duel was held to be the only means of settlement, until a late period, when it was frowned down by public opinion. The war of the rebellion also developed a character of warlike spirit in the American people. The good and bad traits of men were brought out. It is not to be wondered that frontier life brought about a reckless character, and life was held with so little regard. The conditions and surroundings rendered it so. All forms of law were not totally disregarded, but there was a custom which made a law unto itself without legislative enactment.

The readiness with which the pistol—the "gun" as it was called in the parlance of cowboy days—was used, was remarkable. The "killer" was not so much feared by those who did not carry fire arms, for there was some honor among them, after all. An unoffending man was not shot down in cold blood. Those who carried guns were the most likely belligerents in the settlement of any offense. If one had the "drop" on the other the advantage was rarely taken. It was deemed cowardly to take advantage. Perhaps the man who wanted to kill did not have the "drop"—the one in defense took the advantage. But to "shoot on sight" was regarded as a justifiable act if both parties were anticipating an assault and felt aggrieved; and particularly if the grievance was caused by the alienation of the affections of some "solved dove," whose proprietorship had once been invested in the aggrieved party. "Boot Hill," before referred to, was the resting place of many of those who had trampled on the affections of another.

What occurred in the lower forms of society on the frontier can once in awhile be found in the higher state of civilization. When family and fireside have been disgraced the best condition of society justifies such means and ends as were used by the bullwhacker and gambler in the early days of frontier life. The code in the settlement of the offenses referred to still exists, whether the parties aggrieved are of high or low degree in the scale of humanity.

The means of travel and transportation are different at the present time compared to those in the sixties. The old stage coach and the locomotive are wide comparisons; but the stage is still in service in some parts of the west.

A. J. Anthony, who is one of the oldest settlers, during the year 1863, and for 42 years, was a conductor and express messenger on the stage line from Kansas City to Santa Fe, N. M., a distance of 850 miles. The trip was made in eleven days and the same number of days to return in. Mr. Anthony made the entire trip without change, traveling night and day, and getting no rest, except what sleep he would catch at times, when not on the alert of danger.

The stage coaches were the ordinary Concord coaches, and usually six horses, three abreast, were attached. The line followed the old Santa Fe trail. That trail crossed the Arkansas river at Fort Lyon in Colorado, about 175 miles west. The Santa Fe trail followed through the city of Dodge about where the main line of the Santa Fe railroad now runs. But there was no Dodge City then. Stage stations were located every 15 or 16 miles, where water and feed were had and the changes of horses were made. The stage coaches were never troubled by Indians; but at one time the Cimarron station was attacked.

Another line of stages followed the trail from Santa Fe to Tucson, Arizona, a distance of 700 miles. This stage line never went out without a government escort. These stage lines were owned by J. L. Sanderson & Co., who made nearly a million dollars, and retired to homes in St. Louis.

Mr. Anthony speaks of the Indians as being generally docile and never molesting the stage line. He has seen herds of buffaloes fifty miles long. When the stage came across these big herds it was obliged to wait until the herd passed the crossing, if at night time. It was not safe to ride through the herd. The buffaloes went in bands like sheep. Sometimes the stage would wait all night until the buffaloes had passed. There was danger of stampeding and piling up if an attempt was made to go through the buffalo herd. Frequently the stage would go around the herd in the day time. The buffaloes were not wild when they traveled in such large herds. They went in bunches as the cattle men describe it. Buffaloes could be killed by firing from the stage coach or wagon. The Indians slaughtered many of them, but white men killed them mostly for the hides. Buffaloes ate the grass down close to the ground.

The Santa Fe trail was over one hundred years old when Mr. Anthony traveled it. Millions of dollars of goods were transported over this line. The "Santa Fe Route" is a more swifter means of travel today.

There was always plenty of water and grass on the route, Mr. Anthony says, and he never saw the Arkansas river on

low as in late years. In early times it did not dry up. There were no irrigation ditches to consume the water.

How different the transportation of 40 and 50 years ago to that of today! The railroad has supplanted the slow going ox train, and the palace sleeper takes the place of the coach or prairie grass couch.

Predatory bands of Indians no longer menace the emigrant in his stride over the plains, and the plaintive wail of the coyote is less distinct. The mirage once regarded as a phenomenon, seldom obstructs our vision in its weird refraction and evanescent spectacle. This is regarded as an evidence that the humidity of the atmosphere is above the arid degree and dew point. Plain evidence that these indicate climatic changes, slowly progressing under the work and energy of the tiller and toiler of the priceless waste under subjugation by his hand.

Hunting the buffalo soon after the completion of the railroads through this portion of the state, was a wicked and useless sport, as later events have proven. Travelers have killed these animals from the platforms of moving passenger trains and indulged in merely to gratify a morbid taste for slaughter. They were shot down with reckless abandon, and hides and carcass were left to dry up and bleach under the sun. This was called sport.

Buffalo hides were once a common article in commerce and use, but they are so scarce today as to be almost a priceless treasure. Few families retain a buffalo robe as a souvenir of early times, and a good buffalo robe could hardly be had for the sum of \$25.

The freighting of merchandise to military posts and ranches in the Pan Handle of Texas and Indian territory, gave employment to many men and teams. Oxen and mules were the principal animals in use, and with trail wagons several tons of merchandise was carried with one driver; but several teams formed the outfit, and the starting out of a train of merchandise was more of an event than the coming or going of a passenger train at a railroad station now-a-days. Outfitting stores in Dodge City furnished the goods that supplied the points south; but before the railroad was built, there were outfitting stations, and the goods were brought by wagons from the outfitting points on the Missouri river. The Santa Fe trail is known by every student of the history of the west.

The direct point where the Santa Fe trail crossed the Arkansas river has been disputed or indefinitely designated; but old settlers inform us that the trail was across the river above Cimarron, a crossing much used by the Indians. This was called the "dry trail," as it wended its way southwestward, through a country affording little water. The main trail followed up the river to Bent's fort, Colorado, and thence down into New Mexico, and following more on the line of the water courses.

The Santa Fe trail left Independence, Mo., the outfitting point for all merchandise transported over the plains. It ran south of Lawrence, Kansas, through old Hickory Point, where the trail from Leavenworth joined in; and through Council Grove, where the trail from Topeka struck it, and where the Fort Riley road joined it. The trail crossed the historic Cow creek just north of Sterling, passing through Great Bend; crossed the Arkansas river west of Fort Dodge, and following generally a southwest course from Mora to Santa Fe. The trail followed also the line of country north of the Fort, over what is termed "Dry Ridge"—the Spearville country—for this was a long stretch of country from a point near Kinsey, where the trail left the river, and it did not meet the river again until it reached Fort Dodge. There was no water along this divide, and it derived the name "Dry Ridge." With slow ox teams this was a good day's drive, and water must always be provided; but the cut off compensated for the discomfort of the lack of water.

This country was embraced in the original "Louisiana purchase," which included all the northwestern territory. Its subdivision has continued in the progress of settlement and growth until the area is circumscribed in state, county and municipality. Forty years ago Council Grove was the center of the "Kansas Indian Reservation," and was near the corners of four large counties called Davis, Wise, Breckinridge and Richardson. At that time all the south half of Kansas west of longitude 99 was called Washington county, and all that west of longitude 103 to the Rocky Mountains was called Arapahoe county, containing Pike's Peak and Denver country.

Wild horses roamed over these plains in small bands, but the catching of these wild steeds was not a pleasant pastime, but was attended with fruitless effort and difficult search. These horses were not wild in the sense we regard wild beasts. They were not aboriginal. The equine of the desert was the offspring of abandoned animals on the line of march of emigrant trains, stage lines and Indian stampes. There were some fine sublimities

among the number, but many of them sprang from inferior stock. Herds of wild horses yet roam on the plains in the country on our extreme southwest. After being broken these animals are as docile and tractable as the domestic breed.

The lurid writer of fiction and romance brightened his imagination in pyrotechnical rhetoric on a description of Indian escapades and buffalo chases, but he probably never too highly colored his hyperbole of fanciful expression the prairie fire. His picture of fleeing life before the devastating and devouring flames of a prairie fire was not overdrawn. These fires have rendered fearful havoc and in their course have perished man and beast. The prairie fires that followed the drouthy period of 1879-80, were heart-rending, and the most destructive within the history of the country. Houses, stock and feed were destroyed, and several lives were lost from injuries received in the fire. The dry and very windy weather that continued so long added fuel to the flames; and once started the fire had to take its course—it could neither be checked nor controlled.

It is dangerous to burn the grass, and the results are harmful in climatic effects and for agriculture.

The last legislature foresaw the necessity of a legal barrier regarding prairie fires; and if officers and people will do their duty under the law, we shall not likely witness the dreadful and disastrous effects of prairie fires that we have seen in the past.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

The Santa Fe general offices keep one horse and wagon busy carrying mail to and from the station.

Mr. Toogood was beaten for the nomination of Sheriff in Leavenworth county. Perhaps he was too good.

G. A. R. men were pleased with Louisville's hospitality, but they all agree that it was the hottest place they ever expect to feel in this world.

A society man of the city recently took a trip east. Knowing a young lady that lives at Emporia, and being quite taken with her, he wrote to her and explained upon what train he would pass through, asking that she meet him at the train. The answer he received was short and to the point. It read: "Do you take me for a hack driver?"

"Western people are the most extravagant in the world," says Bert Murdock; "they need to learn the value of pennies." There is a good deal of sober truth in this. The average western man does not think anything less than \$100 worth saving. The frugal habits of the down easterner transplanted to Kansas would make this state a loaner instead of a borrower in ten years.

Lincoln as a Lover.

Abraham Lincoln's sentimental perplexities are to be shown in an article of singular interest which John Gilmer Speed has written from unpublished letters of Lincoln to Joshua Speed, for the next issue of "The Ladies' Home Journal." The article will show that the great President was not steady in his affairs of the heart, that he floundered in his love, and finally induced his friend Speed to marry and tell him (Lincoln) whether marriage was a failure or not.

J. C. Wilson, one of the receivers of the Santa Fe road, died suddenly at the Holland house New York yesterday morning. He had risen late and was dressing when he suddenly became unconscious, and before the arrival of medical aid, which was summoned, he died. Wilson's two daughters, who accompanied him to the city when he came there to look after the Atchafalaya system's interests, were at his bedside when he died. Death was caused by heart disease, brought on, it is believed, by overwork. Wilson was 55 years old and of robust appearance. The body will be removed to Wilson's late home in Topeka, Kan., where the burial will take place.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS.
Sealed bids will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Ford county, Kansas, until 2 p. m. on Monday, October 15, 1895, for the purchase of the \$55,000 6 per cent Twenty year Ford County Funding Bonds, issued July 1st, 1895.
This issue is authorized by the Board of County Commissioners under Chapter 61, Session Laws of 1895.
Each bid should be accompanied by a certified check for a sum not less than 5 per cent of the amount of said bid, made payable to A. Russell, County Treasurer of Ford county. Said check to be a guarantee of good faith and to be forfeited to the use of Ford county in case the bidder fails to complete the purchase of said bonds within 10 days.
Bids should be marked on outside of envelope with name of bidder, and will be directed to J. H. Leidigh, County Clerk, Dodge City, Kansas.
The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.
J. H. LEIDIGH, County Clerk.

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MOTHERS, Do You Know that Paragoric, Bateman's Drops, Godfrey's Cordial, many so-called Soothing Syrups, and most remedies for children are composed of opium or morphine?

Do You Know that opium and morphine are stupefying narcotic poisons?

Do You Know that in most countries druggists are not permitted to sell narcotics without labeling them poisons?

Do You Know that you should not permit any medicine to be given your child unless you or your physician know of what it is composed?

Do You Know that Castoria is a purely vegetable preparation, and that a list of its ingredients is published with every bottle?

Do You Know that Castoria is the prescription of the famous Dr. Samuel Pitcher. That it has been in use for nearly thirty years, and that more Castoria is now sold than of all other remedies for children combined?

Do You Know that the Patent Office Department of the United States, and of other countries, have issued exclusive right to Dr. Pitcher and his assigns to use the word "Castoria" and its formula, and that to imitate them is a state prison offense?

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